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COMMENTS:

*Further claim amendments, as discussed.*

*Thank you for your time and attention.*

*Rita Rooney*

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## U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,191

## Further Amendments to Proposed Independent Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for computers, the method including~~ A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising the steps of:

A. ~~determining, by said profile group managing server,~~ a multiple node tree structure of groups for the a set of computers, in which each node is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes and user defined entries and performance data;

B. ~~including, specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria, wherein said secondary grouping criteria can be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between selected high and low values, inclusive such that said ranges include a high value, a low value and values therebetween wherein said values therebetween including values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value; and wherein certain specific values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary grouping criteria together uniquely identify one or more particular computers;~~

C. ~~further including specifying,~~ in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

27 D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of  
28 computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from a plurality of computers;

29 E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing  
30 server performs the following:

31 extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings  
32 and the secondary groupings,

33 querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data  
34 correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the  
35 primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,  
36 and

37 if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,  
38 if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group  
39 that is named in the record,

40 if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low  
41 values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first  
42 predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

43 if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding  
44 secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the  
45 record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are  
46 returned; and

47 F. manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a  
48 selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the  
49 computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a profile group managing server for  
2 managing a computer information database that contains computer profile data for a plurality  
3 of computers, including the steps of: comprising:

4 providing a database that contains computer profile data for a plurality of computers;

5 grouping, by said profile group managing server, the plurality of computers in groups  
6 that are nodes of a multiple node tree in the database in which each node is a group level, and  
7 a top level is a root, in accordance with user-specified primary grouping criteria and

8 secondary grouping criteria that correspond to respective values of selected computer profile  
9 data and the selected values of one or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary  
10 grouping criteria are ranges being ranges that extend between selected high and low values,  
11 inclusive such that said ranges include a high value, a low value and values therebetween  
12 wherein said values therebetween including values that are less than the high value, but  
13 greater than the low value~~between selected high and low values~~ and wherein certain specific  
14 values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary grouping criteria together  
15 uniquely identify one or more particular computers; and

16 altering ranges for one or more of the grouping criteria at said group profile managing  
17 server;

18 manipulating the database computer profile data and producing, for one or more  
19 selected group levels, profile reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes  
20 of the computers that are included in a given group level or below in the tree.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A profile group managing server embodied with computer  
2 executable instructions running on the profile group managing server, ~~A computer readable~~  
3 medium configured as for managing a database management system for producing reports  
4 of attributes of collections of computers using computer profile data contained in a database,  
5 the system — A, a the profile group managing server programmed with instructions  
6 collecting means for comprising:

7 A, collecting, at the profile group managing server, profile data for a given computer  
8 ~~into the database which is retained in computer storage media;~~

9 B. ~~a profile group manager running on an associated computer for~~  
10 grouping the computers into a specified tree-structure of ~~groups~~ groups in the  
11 database in which each node of the tree is a group level, and a top level is a root, based on  
12 primary and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to respective values of selected  
13 computer profile data with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping  
14 criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between selected high  
15 and low values, inclusive, such that said ranges include a high value, a low value and values

16 ~~therebetween wherein said values therebetween including values that are less than the high~~  
17 ~~value, but greater than the low value that extend between selected high and low values,~~  
18 wherein certain specific values for said primary grouping criteria and said secondary  
19 grouping criteria together uniquely identify one or more particular computers, ~~wherein said~~  
20 ~~groupings in said multiple node tree reflect at least one of a company's organizational~~  
21 ~~structure and its underlying physical set up;;~~

22 C. ~~the profile group manager maintaining the computer profile data and the group~~  
23 ~~information in appropriate fields of records in the database in computer storage media;;~~

24 D. manipulating the data in the database to produce reports that summarize the  
25 attributes of the computers in a given group level and the levels below on the tree;; and

26 E. providing the reports to a user.

1 22. (New) A system for managing computer profile data, comprising:

2 a profile group managing server configured to retrieve computer profile data;

3 a set of computers, each computer being configured with a client profile software  
4 module that maintains profile data for that computer, and uploads computer profile data to  
5 said profile group managing server; and

6 a computer information database configured with a mapping table having at least  
7 three fields including a primary profile value to match field, a secondary profile value to  
8 match field, and a group path field, wherein said group profile managing server determines  
9 how to include a computer in a group by extracting from uploaded profile data, that data  
10 which corresponds to primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria, being ranges  
11 that extend between selected high and low values, inclusive, such that said ranges include a  
12 high value, a low value and values therebetween wherein said values therebetween including  
13 values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value.